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Makita PLM5121N2

Makita PLM5121N2 Mulching Lawn Mower User Manual

Model: PLM5121N2 | Brand: Makita

1. Product Overview

The Makita PLM5121N2 is a high-performance mulching lawn mower designed for efficient lawn care. It features a specially formed blade that retains grass clippings within the mower deck, finely cutting them into small pieces. These finely cut clippings are then deposited back onto the lawn, where they decompose quickly, enriching the soil and promoting healthier grass growth.

Equipped with a 3.5 hp Briggs and Stratton 675EXi series four-stroke engine, this mower includes the ReadyStart system, allowing for easy starting without the need for priming or choking. It operates with low noise and clean exhaust emissions, making it an environmentally conscious choice. The PLM5121N2 is recommended for lawns up to 1,800 m².



Figure 1: Makita PLM5121N2 Mulching Lawn Mower. This image displays the complete lawn mower, showcasing its teal deck, black engine, and handle assembly.

Key Features:

- Five cutting heights ranging from 25 to 70 mm for precise lawn manicuring.
- Wheels with integrated ball bearings for enhanced durability and high rear wheels for maneuverability on uneven terrain.
- Edge cutting capability, allowing for close trimming near walls and around obstacles by offsetting the blade position.
- 2-in-1 function for mulching and side discharge.
- Single-lever cutting height adjustment.
- Front plastic cover protects the steel deck.

2. Safety Instructions

Always read and understand all safety warnings and instructions before operating the lawn mower. Failure to follow the warnings and instructions may result in serious injury.

- **Personal Protective Equipment:** Always wear appropriate eye protection, hearing protection, and sturdy footwear when operating the mower.
- **Clear the Area:** Before starting, clear the mowing area of any objects such as rocks, sticks, wires, or toys that could be thrown by the blade.
- **Keep Bystanders Away:** Do not allow children or pets near the mower while it is in operation. Maintain a safe distance.
- **Engine Off Before Adjustments:** Always turn off the engine and disconnect the spark plug wire before making any adjustments, cleaning, or performing maintenance.
- **Fuel Handling:** Handle fuel with extreme care. It is highly flammable. Refuel outdoors in a well-ventilated area, and never refuel while the engine is hot or running.
- **Slope Operation:** Exercise extreme caution when mowing on slopes. Mow across the face of slopes, never up and down. Do not mow excessively steep slopes.
- **Blade Safety:** The blade is sharp. Never touch the blade while the engine is running. Use gloves when handling the blade for maintenance.

3. Setup and Initial Preparation

Before operating your Makita PLM5121N2 lawn mower, ensure it is properly assembled and prepared for use.

3.1 Assembly

Follow the assembly instructions provided in the separate assembly guide that came with your mower. Typically, this involves attaching the handle assembly and ensuring all connections are secure.

3.2 Adding Engine Oil

IMPORTANT: The engine is shipped without oil. You MUST add engine oil before the first use. Failure to do so will cause severe engine damage and void the warranty.

1. Place the mower on a level surface.
2. Locate the oil fill cap/dipstick on the engine.
3. Remove the dipstick and wipe it clean.
4. Slowly pour the recommended type and amount of engine oil (refer to engine manual for specifics, typically SAE 30 or 10W-30) into the oil fill opening.
5. Reinsert the dipstick without screwing it in, then remove it to check the oil level. The oil level should be between the "Full" and "Add" marks.
6. Add more oil if necessary, checking frequently, until the correct level is reached.
7. Securely replace the oil fill cap/dipstick.

3.3 Adding Fuel

Use fresh, clean unleaded gasoline with an octane rating of 87 or higher. Do not use E85 fuel or gasoline containing more than 10% ethanol.

1. Ensure the engine is off and cool.
2. Remove the fuel cap slowly to release any pressure.
3. Fill the fuel tank carefully, leaving some space for expansion. Do not overfill.
4. Securely replace the fuel cap.
5. Wipe up any spilled fuel immediately.

3.4 Adjusting Cutting Height

The Makita PLM5121N2 features a single-lever cutting height adjustment. There are five cutting heights available, ranging

from 25 mm to 70 mm.

1. Ensure the engine is off.
2. Locate the height adjustment lever, typically near one of the wheels.
3. Pull the lever outwards and move it to the desired height setting. Ensure all wheels are set to the same height.
4. Release the lever to lock it into position.

4. Operating Instructions

4.1 Starting the Engine

The Briggs and Stratton 675EXi engine features the ReadyStart system for easy starting.

1. Ensure the spark plug wire is securely connected.
2. Stand behind the mower, grasp the engine brake lever (bail bar) and pull it towards the handle. Hold it firmly.
3. Grasp the starter rope handle and pull it with a rapid, continuous motion until the engine starts. Do not let the rope snap back.
4. Once the engine starts, release the starter rope handle slowly. Keep the engine brake lever held to keep the engine running.

4.2 Mowing Techniques

- **Mulching:** The PLM5121N2 is designed for mulching. For best results, mow when the grass is dry and avoid cutting more than one-third of the grass blade length at a time.
- **Side Discharge:** If you prefer side discharge, attach the side discharge chute (if included or purchased separately) to the mower deck.
- **Maneuverability:** The high rear wheels and integrated ball bearings in all wheels provide excellent maneuverability, especially on uneven terrain.
- **Edge Cutting:** Utilize the mower's edge cutting capability to trim close to walls and obstacles by slightly offsetting the blade position.
- **Pattern:** For an even cut, mow in overlapping rows. Change your mowing pattern regularly to prevent matting and graining of the grass.

4.3 Stopping the Engine

To stop the engine, simply release the engine brake lever (bail bar). The engine will stop automatically.

5. Maintenance

Regular maintenance ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your Makita PLM5121N2 lawn mower. Always turn off the engine and disconnect the spark plug wire before performing any maintenance.

5.1 After Each Use

- **Clean the Deck:** Remove grass clippings and debris from the underside of the mower deck. A clean deck ensures efficient mulching and prevents rust.
- **Inspect Blade:** Check the blade for sharpness and damage. Sharpen or replace as needed.
- **Check Oil Level:** Verify the engine oil level using the dipstick. Add oil if necessary.

5.2 Seasonal Maintenance (or as per engine manual)

- **Change Engine Oil:** Change the engine oil after the first 5 hours of use, then every 25-50 hours or annually, whichever comes first.

- **Clean/Replace Air Filter:** Inspect and clean the air filter regularly. Replace if it is excessively dirty or damaged.
- **Inspect Spark Plug:** Check the spark plug for wear and proper gap. Clean or replace as necessary.
- **Inspect Wheels and Bearings:** Ensure wheels spin freely and bearings are in good condition.
- **General Inspection:** Check all nuts, bolts, and fasteners for tightness. Inspect cables and controls for proper operation.

6. Troubleshooting

This section provides solutions to common issues you might encounter with your lawn mower.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Engine does not start	No fuel; old fuel; spark plug issue; engine brake not engaged; no oil (first use)	Check fuel level and freshness; inspect spark plug; ensure engine brake lever is held; **add engine oil before first use**.
Engine runs rough or stalls	Dirty air filter; stale fuel; clogged fuel line; spark plug issue	Clean/replace air filter; drain old fuel and add fresh; check fuel line; inspect spark plug.
Uneven cut	Dull or bent blade; wheels set to different heights; uneven terrain	Sharpen or replace blade; ensure all wheels are at the same cutting height; adjust mowing technique for terrain.
Excessive vibration	Bent blade; loose blade bolt; engine issue	Inspect and replace bent blade; tighten blade bolt; consult a service professional if engine related.
Poor mulching performance	Grass too wet or too long; dull blade; deck clogged	Mow when grass is dry; cut less grass at a time; sharpen blade; clean underside of deck.

7. Specifications

Attribute	Detail
Model Number	PLM5121N2
Brand	Makita
Engine Type	Briggs and Stratton 675EXi series, 4-stroke, 3.5 hp
Power Source	Gasoline
Cutting Width	51 Centimeters
Cutting Height Adjustment	Single-lever, 5 positions (25 mm to 70 mm)
Functions	Mulching, Side Discharge
Recommended Lawn Area	Up to 1,800 m^2
Product Dimensions (L x W x H)	90.8 x 56.5 x 41 cm
Item Weight	31.7 Kilograms (31700 Grams)
Material	Metal, Plastic

Attribute	Detail
Color	Blue
UPC	088381826600

8. Warranty and Support

For specific warranty information, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official Makita website. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

Customer Support:

If you require technical assistance, spare parts, or service, please contact Makita customer support or an authorized service center. Contact details can typically be found on the Makita website or in your product documentation.

When contacting support, please have your model number (PLM5121N2) and serial number (if applicable) ready to expedite the process.

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